

Free Afghanistan's first broadcast. Five years ago, this service of Radio Free Europe began broadcasting 12 hours a day in Dari and Pashto, to millions of Afghans who had been thirsting for legitimate news and information.

Radio Free Afghanistan had operated during the Soviet invasion, but was then unwisely stopped. The Taliban's Radio Shariat filled the vacuum—broadcasting a steady stream of hate. After the Taliban's fall, Radio Free Afghanistan was restarted and has established itself as the leading broadcaster, with nearly 60 percent of Afghan adults listening.

Madam Speaker, it was Congress who took the lead in creating this essential service. A bipartisan group of Members passed my Radio Free Afghanistan Act of 2001 quickly after September 11th.

As Afghans have confronted many challenges over the past 5 years, Radio Free Afghanistan has been there—and will continue to be in the years to come, offering a voice of freedom and moderation.

#### TRIBUTE TO BOB BECKWITH

#### HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bob Beckwith on the upcoming celebration of his 75th Birthday on April 16th. Bob personifies the very best of the FDNY and has been a source of strength for so many grieving Americans, whether he was standing with President Bush at Ground Zero just days after September 11th or traveling across the country to raise funds for the New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation. I wish him all the best and I am proud to call him my friend!

#### CONGRATULATING BENJAMIN CLINE FOR EARNING HIS EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

#### HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Benjamin Cline for recently earning his Eagle Scout Award, the highest award in Scouting. His keen interest, work ethic and drive in the pursuit of excellence have led Ben to complete all the ranks along the trail to Eagle, including 29 merit badges. Benjamin's Eagle Scout Service Project was completed by installing two flag poles at Belen's Alexander Airport. He has enjoyed Boy Scouts through many camping trips, building his own raft and river rafting, canoeing 50 miles down the Rio Grande and bicycling over 100 miles.

Ben is the son of Doug and Ann Marie Cline of Los Lunas and a junior at Belen High School. At BHS he holds the rank of Lt. JG in Naval ROTC and is the Color Guard commander. He is involved in the new Sea Scouts Ship recently formed at Belen High School as well as with MESA. He is a member of the First United Methodist Church Handbell Choir. Ben also holds a second degree Black Belt at

Belen Goju Ryu Karate School. He attended Dennis Chavez Elementary then was home-schooled for several years before entering Belen High School. He has two sisters who are currently attending UNM in Albuquerque. After graduation in 2008, Ben plans to attend San Juan Community College and earn two associate degrees—Aviation and Law Enforcement. He then plans to attend the University of Minnesota to complete a BS degree in Aviation Law Enforcement and begin a related career.

Ben encourages all young men to explore the Scouting experience—"It has helped me grow in outdoor and leadership skills and helped to mold my character and make me a better person. The Scouting program teaches valuable life skills."

I am proud to recognize Benjamin Cline for his accomplishments. It is my honor as a Member of Congress to have the chance to congratulate this outstanding young man on an achievement he will celebrate the rest of his life. Congratulations Ben Cline, your family, your congressman, and your country are all proud of your achievement.

#### HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GEORGE DAVID

#### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. George David, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of United Technologies Corporation, who received the Leadership in Human Capital Practices award at the Third Annual CNBC Executive Leadership Award ceremony on January 31, 2007. While this prestigious award seeks to honor executives "who best exemplify leadership in human capital practices within their organization by cultivating highly productive and satisfied workforces," no award can fully appreciate the impact that his leadership has had on the lives of thousands of American citizens across the country.

The Employee Scholar Program he created has allowed UTC employees to obtain more than 20,000 academic degrees free of charge. Since 1996, Mr. David's advocacy of the \$600,000,000 investment by United Technologies Corporation in this program has not only enriched the lives of his fellow employees, but has benefited every corner of our great country. The United States of America is more vibrant, dynamic, and competitive because of the Employee Scholar Program he created more than 10 years ago. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating George David for receiving this prestigious award.

#### RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the

state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1401) to improve the security of railroads, public transportation, and over-the-road buses in the United States, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1401, the "Rail and Public Transportation Security Act."

Since the attacks on 9/11, we have seen the tragic consequences when the vulnerabilities of rail and public transportation systems are exploited, including in London and Madrid. We cannot afford to wait for an attack here in America before we make rail and transit security the priority it needs to be.

Tens of billions of dollars have been spent on aviation security since 9/11, yet only \$660 million has been devoted to mass transit security. While we all agree that air travel needs to be as safe as possible, we cannot forget about the security of the millions of people who are riding subways, trains, and busses everyday.

This bipartisan legislation will help to make our Nation's railways and public transportation systems safer by requiring the Departments of Homeland Security and Transportation to develop a national strategy for the security of these systems after assessing the significant risks associated with them. The bill would authorize \$6 billion over the next four years for grant programs and it would require training for rail, transit, and bus employees about prevention, preparation, and response to a terrorist attack. H.R. 1401 increases the number of full-time surface transportation inspectors and it requires the development of regulations for the transportation of sensitive materials including the possibilities of alternative routes.

I am especially pleased to note that this bill provides critical whistleblower protections for DHS, DoT, and rail and public transportation employees who report security risks or violations. Just this month the House passed legislation that, among other provisions, extended important whistleblower protections to employees of intelligence agencies and to federal contractors. It is important that we protect those who by blowing the whistle on misconduct or wrongdoing help keep this country safe.

Our constituents should feel as safe as possible whether they commute daily on a train or bus or whether they are occasional travelers on public transportation systems. Passage of the bill before us today is an important step in enhancing the security of the Nation's mass transit systems.

I urge my colleagues to vote aye.

#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF DAVID MABIE

#### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. David Mabie on the occasion of his retirement after 40 years of dedicated public service to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. Mabie began his career at the Waynesboro Police Department, as one of the original officers of the newly formed Prince William